## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

#### DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### HIGHWAY TRUST FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005



CHARLES J. WILLOUGHBY INSPECTOR GENERAL

### GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Office of the Inspector General

**Inspector General** 



January 30, 2006

Daniel M. Tangherlini Director District Department of Transportation 2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Washington, D.C. 20009

Natwar M. Gandhi, Ph.D. Chief Financial Officer Office of the Chief Financial Officer The John A. Wilson Building 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 209 Washington, D.C. 20004

#### Dear Mr. Tangherlini and Dr. Gandhi:

The Office of the Inspector General has completed an audit (OIG No. 05-1-20KA) of the comparative balance sheet of the District of Columbia Highway Trust Fund (Fund) as of September 30, 2005, and the related comparative statements of revenues, expenditures, and change in fund balance for the year then ended. As part of our review, we will also examine the Fund's 5-year forecast of expenditure conditions and operations. The results of this review will be reported separately on or before May 31, 2006. The District Department of Transportation administers the Fund for the District of Columbia government.

Our audit included a review of existing internal controls for the purpose of expressing an opinion on financial accounting records and determining the extent of substantive testing required. The review was not intended to be an exhaustive study of the internal controls for making detailed recommendations, and would not have necessarily disclosed all weaknesses in the system. Additionally, we tested for compliance with the provisions of selected laws and regulations and found no instances of noncompliance that would be reportable under generally accepted government auditing standards. However, the objective of our audit was not to provide an opinion on overall compliance with such provisions.

Mr. Tangherlini and Dr. Gandhi Highway Trust Fund January 30, 2005 Page 2 of 4

### **Unqualified Opinion on Financial Statements**

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, the Fund's assets and liabilities as of September 30, 2005, and its revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance for the year then ended.

We have not found any major issues of internal control weaknesses or non-compliance with regulations that we consider material or reportable conditions during our fiscal year 2005 audit.

We appreciate the cooperation and courtesies extended to our staff during this audit. If you have questions, please call William J. DiVello, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, or me at (202) 727-2540.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Willoughby

Inspector General

CJW/js

Enclosure

cc: See Distribution List

Mr. Tangherlini and Dr. Gandhi Highway Trust Fund January 30, 2006 Page 3 of 4

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Mr. Tangherlini and Dr. Gandhi Highway Trust Fund January 30, 2006 Page 4 of 4

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### **Introduction and Purpose**

Pursuant to D.C. Code § 9-109.02(e)(2001), the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has audited the financial statements of the District of Columbia's Highway Trust Fund (Fund). As part of our review, we will also examine the Fund's 5-year forecast of expenditure conditions and operations. We will issue a separate report on the Fund's 5-year forecast by May 31, 2006.

The District of Columbia Emergency Highway Relief Act (Act), Pub. L. No. 104-21, § 2109 Stat. 257 (1995), codified at D.C. Code §§ 9-109.01 - 9-109.03 (2001), authorized the federal government to increase its share of eligible project costs to fund the District of Columbia's (District) share of highway project costs under Title 23, United States Code, for fiscal years 1995 and 1996. The Act also required the District to establish a Highway Trust Fund and revolving fund account to finance and pay for highway projects. *Id.* at § 3.

Consistent with the Act's requirements, the District established a dedicated Highway Trust Fund separate from the District's General Fund. The Highway Trust Fund is comprised of amounts equivalent to all motor vehicle fuel tax receipts, fees, civil fines, and penalties collected by the District pursuant to D.C. Code § 9-111.01(c)(2001). The receipts are required to be deposited in the fund by the Mayor on a monthly basis. The amounts in the fund are to be sufficient to repay the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the increased federal share of project costs during fiscal years 1995 and 1996, and to pay the District's cost-sharing requirements for eligible federal-aid highway projects under Title 23 of the United States Code, beginning with fiscal year 1997. See D.C. Code § 9-111.01(d)(2001).

Also consistent with the Act's requirements, the District established a revolving bank account, now called the D.C. Highway Trust Fund account, separate from the Capital Operating Fund of the District Department of Transportation, and reserved for the prompt payment of contractors completing federal-aid highway projects in the District. *See* D.C. Code § 9-109.03(b)(2001).

## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Office of the Inspector General

**Inspector General** 



#### **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Director, Department of Transportation, Government of the District of Columbia; and Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Government of the District of Columbia:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Highway Trust Fund, which is administered by the District of Columbia Department of Transportation as of and for the year ended September 30, 2005. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Highway Trust Fund's management and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the District of Columbia Highway Trust Fund as of September 30, 2005, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 30, 2006, on our consideration of the District of Columbia Highway Trust Fund's internal controls over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, and contracts. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

Charles J. Willoughby

Inspector General

January 30, 2006

COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS				
ASSETS	2005	2004		
Current Assets:				
Cash & Investments	\$ 21,314,679	\$ 27,299,948		
Receivables-Motor Fuel Tax	2,177,561	3,185,762		
Other Receivables	-	707,353		
Other Current Assets	122,996			
Total Assets	23,615,236	31,193,063		
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE				
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>				
Accounts Payable	-	8,249,982		
Deferred Revenue	-	1,814,964		
Vouchers and Other Payables	1,842,734			
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	1,842,734	10,064,946		
Long-Term Liabilities				
Retainage	1,041,339	494,588		
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	1,041,339	494,588		
Total Liabilities	2,884,073	10,559,534		
Fund Balance:				
Restricted	20,731,163	20,633,529		
Total Liabilities & Fund Balance	\$ 23,615,236	\$ 31,193,063		

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE

Revenues	 2005		2004
Motor Fuel Tax	\$ 25,912,074	\$	26,677,862
Interest and Other Income	 526,061		272,479
<b>Total Revenue</b>	 26,438,135		26,950,341
Capital Appropriated Expenditures			
Design, Site, Construction, and			
Equipment Costs	22,657,076		17,992,608
Project Mgmt Costs	2,042,534		2,554,318
Non-Participating Costs	 1,640,891		10,893,741
Total Expenditures	 26,340,501		31,440,667
<b>Excess (Deficit) of Revenues over Expenses</b>	97,634		(4,490,326)
Fund Balance at October 1,	 20,633, 529		25,123,855
Fund Balance at September 30,	\$ 20,731,163	\$	20,633,529

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

#### NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements of the Highway Trust Fund (Fund) report on the Fund's financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain District functions or activities. A fund is a separate entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

The Highway Trust Fund is a governmental fund, which is used to account for the monies (motor fuel vehicle taxes) held by the District to pay the District's share of federal-aid highway projects.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used for the Fund. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they become both measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period.

Those revenues susceptible to accrual are excise taxes, other fees, and interest. Excise taxes are recognized as revenue when the sale and use take place. Interest and fees are recognized as revenue through the passage of time.

#### **Cash and Investments**

Highway Trust Fund cash is deposited in accounts with eligible financial institutions. The Highway Trust Fund cash is invested in obligations of the United States or its agencies through repurchase agreements. Such investments are considered the equivalents of cash because they are low-risk, short-term (90 days or less) investments.

#### **Receivables and Payables**

Taxes receivable are motor fuel taxes levied by the District government and interest penalties on delinquent taxes that have not been collected, canceled, or abated, less the portion of the receivables estimated not to be collectible. The District government transfers these taxes to the Fund. Accounts receivable/payable are amounts owed by/to customers or vendors for goods and services sold or purchased. "Due from/to Other Funds" represents monies either due to or due from the Capital Projects Fund or other District agencies for amounts owed or for expenditures over-reimbursed. Amounts due within 1 year are classified as current receivables/payables in the balance sheet.

#### **Restricted Assets and Liabilities**

All assets are restricted as to use by legal or contractual agreements. The Fund includes certain assets and liabilities arising from dedicated taxes that are legally restricted for certain highway projects.

#### **Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### NOTE 2: CURRENT ASSETS

#### **Cash and Investments**

As required by law, the bank balance was entirely insured or collateralized with securities held by the bank's agent in the District's name. The carrying amount and bank balances of deposits for the Highway Trust Fund as of September 30 are:

Account Name	FY 2005	FY 2004
Highway Trust Fund Account	6,497,196	4,425,773
Investment Account	14,580,738	21,198,689
Primary Government Accounts	236,745	1,675,486
<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	\$ 21,314,679	\$ 27,299,948

<u>Highway Trust Fund Account</u> – dedicated bank account used to receive motor fuel tax receipts transferred from the District for the payment of the District's share of federal highway projects and for the receipts of Federal Highway Administration's payment of federal highway projects.

<u>Investment Account</u> – excess Highway Trust Fund monies invested in accordance with the District's investment policies.

<u>Primary Government Accounts</u> – dedicated accounts used to record revenues for motor fuel taxes prior to transfer from the District and to record expenditures for capital program costs including vendor payments, payroll, and intra-district transfers.

#### Taxes Receivable

Taxes receivable consist of dedicated motor fuel taxes earned in FY 2005 and received in FY 2006.

#### **Other Current Assets**

Other current assets are advances made to other District agencies for work performed on capital projects under an intra-District agreement.

#### **NOTE 3: CURRENT LIABILITIES**

### **Accounts Payable**

<u>Vouchers Payable</u> – refunds and overpayments owed to interstate bus companies at fiscal year end, and amounts owed to contractors for various highway projects at fiscal year end.

<u>Deferred Revenues</u> – contracts for Highway Trust Fund projects including work performed for the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority (WASA). DDOT bills WASA for WASA's share of the costs. Deferred revenues represent monies remitted to DDOT by WASA in advance of services which will be rendered in future period.

#### NOTE 4: LONG TERM LIABILITIES

Certain payables that the District does not expect to pay within 1 year are classified as long-term liabilities.

#### Retainage

In accordance with Federal Highway Administration construction contracts, the District withholds a percentage of costs incurred by contractors until the completion of certain segments of work. Projects are financed under multi-year contractual obligations.

#### NOTE 5: FUND BALANCE

The Fund Balance is restricted to use by the District Department of Transportation's Highway Trust Fund for repayment to the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration and for the District's cost-sharing requirements for eligible federal-aid highway projects.

#### **NOTE 6: REVENUES**

The Highway Trust Fund revenue from October 1 through September 30 consists of:

- excise taxes earned on motor fuel sold in the District, at the wholesale level, and
- interest and investment income earned from short-term (overnight) investments and in obligations of the United States or its agencies through repurchase agreements.
- reimbursement from WASA for work added to the construction contract that is not part of the HTF project. Expenses paid are offset against funds received from WASA.

#### **NOTE 7: EXPENDITURES**

The total represents capital appropriated expenditures for the period October 1 through September 30 for each fiscal year. These expenditures that are payable from the Highway Trust Fund include the following:

- payment of the District's share of federal-aid highway project costs, and
- in-house capital outlay labor costs (DDOT personnel).

## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Office of the Inspector General

**Inspector General** 



Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards* 

To the Director, Department of Transportation, Government of the District of Columbia; and Chief Financial Officer, Government of the District of Columbia:

We have audited the financial statements of the District of Columbia Highway Trust Fund (Fund) as of and for the year ended September 30, 2005, and have issued our report thereon dated January 30, 2006. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

### **Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Fund's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control that might be material weaknesses.

A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operations that we consider to be material weaknesses.

### **Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance whether the Fund's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, the noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Charles J. Willoughby

Inspector General

January 30, 2006